Melanson

Dear Phil, 8/10/84

You ask in your 8/7 what my Mexico City scenario is. I have none. I believe that we do not know enough and that it was arranged that nobody would. We know enough to be fairly certain of some impossibilities as well as some and rather limited possibilities, but not enough for the development of a resonaible scenario. We can conjecture, and that also is a way of thinking things through. But not enough for the making of positive statements in public and responsibly. We do know enough not to believe some of the things other believe and spread and to have substantial questions about others.

It is only fair that I also confess what others may regard as prejudice and I think isn't that at all. I say this with regard to my many questions about Summers. It also applies to Davison, for example.

I've published more than anyone else, done more work in the field that anyone else and have read and have more records than anyone else. I therefore begin with what to me are the most substantial questions about a yone writing in the field who does not have an desire to examine what I have that he writes about.

Summers asked permission to use, with acknowledgement, one thing in Oswald in New Orleans. He managed to omit his source in his book, this representing that, too, as his own work, and he also managed never to ask me if I'd learned any more since then about that or anything else relevant. Or about anything I learned in all the time I spent in New Orleans.

While there may well be the kind of withheld Mexico HSCA report Summers says he saw, I do not believe his account of what he saw. I have no reason to believe that any HSCA people would have seen anything the CIA did not want them to see and every reason to believe that the CIA would have withheld deliberately anything it considered might be embarrassing to ~~xxx~~ it. I also have every reason to believe that in this area as in many others HSCA was much less than diligent. At the same time, there were enough people on its staff who did have concerns for this kind of thing to have leaked. And disclosed CIA records, as I recall, indicate that HSCA did not even bother to look at all the CIA admitted having.

The Carrolyn Arnold illustration about which you ask: compare what Summers without question attributes to her to the statement she gave the FBI, that she, personally, corrected, on where, when and how she saw Oswald. The statement Summers uses cannot be correct and is probably the result of his planting the ideas, deliberately or otherwise. I have the ~~xxx~~ two FBI reports in Photographic Whitewash.

On versions of what happened when Oswald was at the Cuban consulate: there is a significant admission by Phillips in his deposition in his suit against Freed. He said the CIA's first knowledge of Oswald there came from a source inside the consulate. While this may be interpreted as either a live or an inanimate source, it leave it beyond reasonable question that the CIA knew exactly what transpired and it is beyond belief that it could have included anything like the range of Comer Clark to Dan Schorr version with the CIA remaining silent about it.

You lack any basis for the assertion of an Oswald-Ferrie relationship of the kind you think can lead to his having anti-Castro associates in 1963. Remember, the only known possibility of an Oswald-Ferrie relationship was when Oswald was about 15. And of the people we know he know after his return from the USSR, we know of nobody he would have preferred associating with more than DeM, regardless of whether or not they held the same political beliefs. The rest were so sterile! But there is no way of equating associating with DeM with associating with the Bringuiers. Other than in a special role, and of that there is no evidence at all. He had no real association with Bringuier, either.

Thanks for the partial transcript of the 11/22/83 WBAI panel. In it you refer to something I believe I've asked you and PH without response, what we know from official disclosure about the electronic surveillances. You say that the CIA admitted having three different tapes. I'd appreciate copies of the records because I am considering filing suit, something I once believe I'd not do again. (I don't believe their unofficial explanation that the tapes were automatically destroyed.)

What Tony Summers says Duran told him simply can't be believed, that she never was shown or saw a photo of Oswald. Moreover, from Szque's HSCA testimony it is entirely unlikely that the entire matter was not the subject of intense discussion among all of them when, obviously, what the guy was from the pix would have been important. And enough clear pix were published, there and everywhere else. I am not willing to believe that the Mexican police would not have show her a picture and I really don't think the WC's lawuers or the HSCA staff didn't, either. Or the FBI, which can be depended upon to cover its own ass.

While I do not for a minute believe that the CIA was so incompetent its cameras were not working and thus it didn't get a shot of Oswald at any place or at any time, Tony's reason or question about its withholding is not for real. If it had or could have had any other interest, it would not have been of any significance to the CIA to support that part of the official account. All the official account wanted was to say that Oswald went to the Cubans and they had enough on that and his own intercepted letter to the USSR DC embassy was enough on that.

There is nothing credible about Elena Garro de Paz's story and anything indicating that she is credible in anything else she said is irrelevant. So, if someone, even those Tony says were CIA, had anything to do with hiding her inx hotel it does not give her story any credibility. She is plain nuts, as are her politics.

I have no way of knowing what will happen in my field offices case before the appeals court but if as I believe probable there is a remand, all the Dallas versions of this matter are relevant. This includes a teletyped or cabled paraphrase of the tape(s) flown up to Dallas from MxCy and a transcript. So please, when yiu can, let me have all the documentation you have that is in any way relevant. I also have an od, acknowledged and inclusive FOIA request of the CIA for all MxCy info and Jim and I have been talking about filing suit.

Please excuse the haste. I'Ve lots of records entirely unrelated scattered all over my desk and I didn't want to let this wait until I clean all of that up because it will be going on for a while.

Best wishes,